

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed June 21, 2006.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 11, and 14 have been amended. Claims 8 and 9 have been cancelled. Support for the amended claims can be found throughout the originally filed application, e.g., paragraphs 41 and 43 and Table 4. No new matter has been added. Applicants submit this amendment to place the claims in condition for allowance or better condition for Appeal pursuant to C.F.R. 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-4, 6, and 10, and independent claims 7, 11 and 14 are currently pending and at issue. Claims 5, 12, 13 and 15 have been withdrawn as being based on non-elected species.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected the claims under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over (1) Summerbell (BMJ 317 1998 p. 1478-89) and Metz et al (AJH 1:58-60 1988), in view of knowledge that allegedly can be obtained by routine experimentation or is well known to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Applicants contend that the present invention is distinct from Summerbell and Metz, because these references, either alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention as set forth in amended claims 1, 7, 11 and 14 or dependent claims 2-4, 6, and 10, which include additional limitations distinguishing them from the cited references. This rejection is traversed. The Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance indicating the allowability of claims 1-4, 6-7, 10-11 and 14 and that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: November 21, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Michael A. Gollin

Registration No.: 31,957

Zayd Alathari

Registration No.: 42,256

VENABLE LLP

P.O. Box 34385

Washington, DC 20043-9998

(202) 344-4000

(202) 344-8300 (Fax)

Attorney/Agent For Applicant